



Open Space Committee

Date: February 24, 2022

Time: 7:30 PM

Location: Conducted by Remote Participation

Present: Ann LeRoyer, David Morgan, Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Shirley Canniff, Emily Nink, Eliza Hatch, David White, Wendy Richter, Brian Kelder, Brian McBride

Absent: Teresa DeBenedictis

Guests: None

Agenda

1. Review/approve January 27, 2022 Minutes

- a. D. White motioned to approve the minutes and E. Carr-Jones seconded. All were in favor, motion approved.

2. OSC News

- a. A. LeRoyer confirmed OSC annual budget of \$300 for FY23
- b. A. LeRoyer shared that D. Morgan had the OSC website updated to include the most recent public forum details and other Open Space and Recreation Plan news

3. Open Space and Recreation Plan 2022-2029 Update

- a. The committee reviewed sections 3-5 of the Open Space and Recreation Plan narrative and maps.
 - i. W. Richter commented that the map symbology was difficult to read and all agreed that the map colors should be refined to increase accessibility and legibility.
 - ii. A. LeRoyer suggested labeling all water bodies consistently across maps. E. Nink mentioned the bikeway posed the same problem. B. Kelder noted that the colors of some map features match others and confuses the viewer. A. LeRoyer agreed to send the symbology concerns to Horsley Witten for revision.
 - iii. W. Richter offered that the schools should be shown on the resource inventory pages for purposes of orientation. E. Carr-Jones asked for refinements of how the school properties are shown, including more consistent labeling of the open spaces associated, which may be managed by Recreation or other town departments and thus not shown on zoning maps or other GIS inventories as open space. W. Richter suggested that the town regularly update the mapping index of open spaces. D. Morgan offered that the Public Land Management Plan will include such an inventory.

- iv. W. Richter suggested adding a match line to the inventory map for when the document is printed.
- v. A. LeRoyer said many of the comments in the text sections 3-5 had been resolved but some edits were still pending action by Horsley Witten or further information from the town. A. LeRoyer agreed to circulate sections 6-7, which just arrived.
- vi. E. Carr-Jones requested adding mention of the pending Cooke's Hollow feasibility study. A. LeRoyer agreed to find suitable language for that description but noted that this year's CPA-funded work will not be approved by publication.

4. Other news

- a. D. Morgan updated on a proposal set to come before the Conservation Commission for a parking lot project at 993 Massachusetts Avenue, which may affect plans for extension of the Wellington Park walking path along Mill Brook. No action is proposed by the applicant at this time, but the project may affect Open Space Committee plans.
- b. Discussion of Picture Post project was delayed to the meeting March 24, 2022 meeting
- c. E. Carr-Jones described sessions she attended at the Mass Open Space Conference, notably including climate change related open space concerns. All sessions are recorded and hosted at massopenspace.org
- d. A. LeRoyer invited members to participate in the Mystic River-Bikeway connection focus group in March. W. Richter and E. Nink volunteered.
- e. W. Richter offered to attend the upcoming Arlington Redevelopment Board meeting and report progress on the OSRP as the Open Space Committee liaison.
- f. A. LeRoyer presented a request for support for the zero-waste warrant article banning single-use plastic water bottles. E. Nink shared an unintended consequence of the ban may be encouraging use of other, less healthful products and offered to share her research. S. Canniff offered that refillable water stations are heavily used in the schools. W. Richter encouraged an alternative to the article that would have refill stations installed in convenient locations. B. Kelder felt there was too little information to decide on the committee's support for the warrant article. A. LeRoyer offered to relate that information back to the sponsors.

5. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 9:19 PM.

Upcoming Meeting Dates (4th Thursday except Nov and Dec) March 24, April 28, May 26, June 23, July 28, August 25, September 22, October 27, November 10, December 8